

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 12772 011643Z

43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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P R 011616Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4382
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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S E C R E T LONDON 12772

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CY, UK, US

SUBJECT: BRITISH CONCERNED ABOUT MAKARIOS

1. FCO TALKED TO US AT WORKING LEVEL SEPTEMBER 27 ABOUT MAKARIOS, JUST AS WE UNDERSTAND THEY SPOKE AT HIGHER LEVEL TO DEPARTMENT OVER WEEKEND. THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT MAKARIOS RETURNING SOON TO CYPRUS, PERHAPS AT HEAD OF BROADLY BASED GOVERNMENT, PARALLEL OURS.

2. SOMEWHAT NOVEL BRITISH ANGLE (FROM WESTON) WAS SUGGESTION THAT MAKARIOS MIGHT BE DIVERTED AND KEPT BUSY DOING SOMETHING ELSE WHILE CLERIDES CONTINUES TO NEGOTIATE. BRITISH SUGGEST GREEK GOVERNMENT MIGHT FIND SOMETHING FOR HIM TO DO -- BUT DO NOT KNOW WHAT. WESTON NOTED CONVERSATION MINISTER OF DEFENSE AVEROFF RECENTLY HAD WITH NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN ATHENS DURING WHICH AVEROFF BOASTED HE COULD CONTROL HIS OLD FRIEND MAKARIOS. OUR OWN PERSONAL REACTION TO THAT THOUGHT WAS THAT WE COULD NOT IMAGINE ANYTHING GREEKS COULD DO THAT COULD DIVERT MAKARIOS IF HE MADE UP HIS MIND TO RETURN -- OR ANY NEED FOR AN EXCUSE IF HE WERE PERSUADED NOT TO.

3. COMMENT: OUR BEST GUESS FOR THIS BRITISH ACTIVITY

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PAGE 02 LONDON 12772 011643Z

(WHICH HAD ITS GENESIS AMONG FCO OFFICIALS) IS TO CRY-

STALLIZE POSITIONS ON MAKARIOS ISSUE IN PREPARATION FOR
WHAT BRITISH SEE AS INCREASINGLY INEVITABLE EVENT:
MAKARIOS' RESUMPTION OF POWER IN CYPRUS. THERE ARE SOME
FCO OFFICIALS PREPARED TO ARGUE THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF
ANY KNOWN ABILITY OF KARAMANLIS TO CONTROL MAKARIOS, THE
ARCHBISHOP WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO ANY PERMANENT SETTLEMENT
EVEN IN TURKISH EYES, AND WE SHOULD ALL GET USED TO THE
IDEA. OUR HUNCH IS MOST BRITISH HOPE FOR IS SOME DELAY-
ING ACTION TO KEEP MAKARIOS FROM RETURNING TOO SOON,
THUS PERSUADING CLERIDES (WHOSE FREQUENT PROPENSITY TO
RESIGN IS WELL DOCUMENTED) TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATING.

ANNENBERG

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